(f) to (h) The Ministry has an ongoing scheme for funding R&D projects for development of such technology. Various institutions including Veterinary colleges. Agricultural Universities & Cooperatives are eligible to avail this assistance.

Vacant Engineering Seats

2027. PROF. A LAKSHMISAGAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have collected the data regarding the number of vacant engineering seats all over the country for the current academic year;

(b) if so. the details regarding the number of seats available and the vacant seats, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons behind the downfall in the demand for engineering seats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SHRIMATI RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) Admission to Engineering Colleges are made by the State level Committees based on the intake approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). Details on vacant seats all over the country is not maintained centrally.

Financial Assistance for Hindi Teachers' Posts in Non-Hindi speaking States

2028. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's proposal to extend financial assistance for creation of posts of Hindi Teachers in non-Hindi speaking States. specially for encouraging Hindi teaching;

(b) if so, when it would start; and

(c) if not, how the Hindi teaching in non-Hindi speaking States, especially North-Eastern States which are financially weak, can continue Hindi teaching in that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) A Central Plan Scheme for the Appointment of Hindi Teachers in non-Hindi speaking States, including the North-Eastern States is being implemented since the Second Five Year Plan. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for appointing Hindi Teachers. The budget for the scheme this year is Rs. 10.00 crores.

Utilisation of Grants by IIT Kharagpur

2029. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether intake capacity of the IIT Kharagpur was to be increased by 20 per cent every year, so that within five years from 1998 the Institute would have doubled its capacity;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of the specific purpose Plan grants of 13.80 crore received between 1995 and 1999, IIT Kharagpur did utilise only Rs. 6.95 crore ;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action is being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) No such target as increase in intake by 20% every year within five years from 1998 was fixed for the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur. However, with a view to provide high quality technical education to as many students as possible, the Government